

I urge to you to stop phone companies from imposing unrecognizable and indecipherable charges on my monthly phone bill. I would like to know exactly what I am paying for and be able to compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations, including Consumers Union. This petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand. Instead, they are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply line items are mandated by law, when they are not. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the monthly bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate carrier practices related to line item charges on bills for wireline and wireless phone service; to declare certain practices in violation on the Commission's "Truth in Billing" Order and to prohibit carriers from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.